TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 7 totaled 19.3 billion ton-miles, up 8.9 percent from the 17.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 337.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended May 7 totaled 432,086, up 7.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 1.2 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 2.4 percent in the East, and 12.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 8,302 cars (7.5 percent), grain showed a gain of 7,460 cars (30.6 percent), and metallic ores increased by 2,642 cars (14.7 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended April 30 totaled 111,494 trailers and/or containers, up 7.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 1,825,552 trailers and/or containers, up 5.2 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/7/88:

	Loadings in Week ended May 7, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,800	I	7,460	30.6	I	29	0.09
Other farm products	3,488	D	297	7.8	I	223	6.8
Metallic ores	20,580	I	2,642	14.7	I	788	4.0
Coal	118,370	I	8,302	7.5	D	3,368	2.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,106	I	1,633	9.9	I	1,167	6.9
Nonmetallic minerals	10,693	I	29	0.3	D	489	4.4
Grain mill products	10,864	D	49	0.4	D	267	2.4
Food and kindred products	11,175	I	247	2.3	I	233	2.1
Primary forest products	9,865	D	1,299	11.6	I	126	1.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,484	D	755	9.2	D	1,619	17.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,432	D	45	0.4	D	214	1.7
Chemicals and allied products	28,509	I	2,029	7.7	I	1,211	4.4
Petroleum products	5,200	I	440	9.2	D	142	2.7
Stone, clay and glass products	11,379	I	198	1.8	I	26	0.2
Coke	5,742	I	654	12.9	D	515	8.2
Metals and products	11,086	I	2,057	22.8	D	775	6.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,586	I	1,838	8.9	I	258	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,313	I	1,097	13.4	D	1,068	10.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,552	D	123	4.6	D	174	6.4
All other carloads	80,862	I	2,776	3.6	D	722	0.9
Total Cars Loaded	432,086	I	28,814	7.1	D	5,292	1.2
Corresponding week of 1987	403,272						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	7,527,712	7,065,345	I 6.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
17 weeks ended April 30	318.1	296.3	I 7.4
Week ended May 7	19.3	17.7	I 8.9
18 Weeks cumulative	337.4	313.9	I 7.5

#

AARt - 051288